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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/924,590	08/09/2001	Hideko Kagimasa	ASA-1019	3005

24956 7590 03/23/2005

MATTINGLY, STANGER, MALUR & BRUNDIDGE, P.C.
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SUITE 370
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

EXAMINER

NGUYEN, MAIKHANH

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2176

DATE MAILED: 03/23/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/924,590

Applicant(s)

KAGIMASA ET AL.

Examiner

Maikhanh Nguyen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 November 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 and 8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) 1 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 and 8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 7 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to communications: Amendment filed 11/15/2004 to the original application filed 08/09/2001.
2. Claims 1-6 are currently pending in this application. Claims 1-6 have been amended. Claims 7-8 have been added. Claims 1 and 6 are independent claims.

Priority

3. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), and based on application # 2000-384902 in Japan on 12/14/2000, which paper has been placed of record in the file.

Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for the purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language; or " (Emphasis added.)

Claims 1-4 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by **Kato et al.** (U.S. 6,631,495 – filed 06/1998).

As to independent claim 1:

- a. Kato teaches a document information management method for opening document information to a plurality of users (*col. 1, lines 48-55*), comprising the steps of:
- (i) managing each of the document information in an editable form and in a reference-only form (*col. 10, lines 31-56*);
 - (ii) offering the document information in the editable form to users desiring re-utilizing of the document information (*col. 11, lines 21-24*); and
 - (iii) tracing and managing the utilization state of the document information when the document information is re-utilized (*col. 3, lines 1-17*).

As to dependent claim 2:

Kato teaches the document information is offered in the editable form to users desiring re-utilizing of the document information, information of an re-utilizing party of the document information is notified to a creator of the document information (*col. 1, lines 20-51 and col. 2, lines 46-50*).

As to dependent claim 3:

Kato teaches the document information is updated, the document information after re-utilizing is sent to a creator of the document information (*col.1, lines 20-51/ col.2, lines 46-50 and col.10, lines 31-67*).

As to dependent claim 4:

Kato teaches commentary information made by a creator of the document information is notified to re-utilizing party of the document (*col.1, lines 20-51/ col.2, lines 46-50 and col.10, lines 31-67*)

As to independent claim 6:

- a. The rejection of claim 1 above is incorporated herein in full. Additionally, claim 6 further recites “ offering the document information in the reference-only form to users desiring to look up the document information.”
- b. Kato teaches offering the document information in the reference-only form to users desiring to look up the document information (*col.1, lines 23-65 and col.2, lines 46-50*).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions

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covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 5 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Kato et al.** in view of **Altman** (U.S. 6,721,921 – filed 07/2000).

As to dependent claim 5:

- a. Kato teaches the document information is re-utilizing (*col.1, line 20 and col.2, lines 46-50*) and a subsequent utilization state of the document information is traced and managed (*col.3, lines 1-17*), but does not teach “a time limit is set to complete a review of the document information and a creator and a user is prompted to complete review based on the time limit.
- b. Altman teaches a time limit is set to complete a review of the document information and a creator and a user is prompted to complete review based on the time limit (*col.7, line 48-col.8, line 18*).
- c. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to include the feature from Altman in the system of Kato because it would have provided the capability for notifying the system that he/she has finished reviewing a specified document. Such a notification, the system records that the review is complete and removes the viewer from the list of people to get reminders.

As to dependent claim 8:

- a. Kato does not teach “setting a time limit to submit document information for a review; and urging the document information to submit the document information for review.”
- b. Altman teaches setting a time limit to submit document information for a review; and urging the document information to submit the document information for the review (*col.7, line 48-col.8, line 18*).
- c. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to include the feature from Altman in the system of Kato because it would have provided the capability for notifying the system that he/she has finished reviewing a specified document. Such a notification, the system records that the review is complete and removes the viewer from the list of people to get reminders.

Allowable Subject Matter

- 6. Claim 7 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Arguments

- 7. Applicant's arguments filed on 11/15/2004 have been fully considered, but are deemed to be moot in view of the new grounds of rejection necessitated by Applicant's amendments.

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Kohno et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,781,915 issued: Jul. 14, 1998

9. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a). A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.
10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Maikhanh Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-4093. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 9:00am – 5:30 pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph H Feild can be reached on (571) 272-4090.

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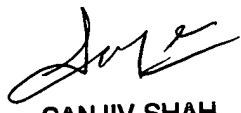
The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>.

Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Maikhanh Nguyen
March 18, 2005


SANJIV SHAH
PRIMARY EXAMINER